

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling access to a data structure having a plurality of sections, said method comprising the steps of:

associating addresses of users with respective sections of the data structure on a common spreadsheet wherein each of the respective sections is comprised of a plurality of independently accessible storage areas;

granting access rights for each of the users to access the sections corresponding to the associated addresses of the respective users ~~by: 1) permitting said access to each of the users responsive to the associated addresses of the users with the respective sections of the data structure and 2)~~

displaying the sections each of the users has access to as a respective common layer of the common spreadsheet

preventing any of said users from having access to any of said sections which have not been associated with the address of said any of said users, wherein the sections of the data structure exist and include data prior to said access rights being granted, and wherein any of said sections to which any of the users has been prevented access are not displayed in each of the users' respective common layer; and

wherein one of said sections of one of said users is permitted to partially overlap another of said sections of another of said users without completely overlapping said another of said sections

enabling each of the users to access the storage areas in the respective sections of the data structure associated with each users' respective address, after said access rights are granted.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of associating includes entering the addresses into respective linking sections of the data structure, each of the linking sections being associated with a portion of the sections of the data structure.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of associating includes associating the addresses to the respective sections of the data structure from another data structure.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
sending an e-mail to one of the users alerting the user of the user's ability to access the sections of the data structure associated with the user's address.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
creating, by one of the users, a password, to limit access to the sections of the data structure associated with the one user's address to the one user and other users having access rights to the sections of the data structure associated with the one user's address.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
reassigning, by one of the users, said access rights to at least a portion of the sections of the data structure associated with the one user's address to another user.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of enabling includes enabling at least one of editing the respective sections by users corresponding to the associated addresses, and viewing the respective sections by users corresponding to the associated addresses.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of associating includes associating the addresses of the users with respective data cells of a spreadsheet included in the data structure.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of associating includes selecting at least one section in the data structure and entering the respective address into a linking section of the data structure to link the at least one selected section with the user

associated with the entered address, and said step of enabling includes enabling access to the at least one selected section to the user associated with the entered address.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said step of selecting included in said step of associating includes selecting the at least one section as a data cell in a spreadsheet, and said step of enabling includes enabling access to the data cell to the user associated with the entered address.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said step of selecting includes at least one of highlighting the data cell and clicking on the data cell.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of accessing a data structure, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving authorization, by a user, to access at least a portion of a plurality of sections included in the data structure on a common spreadsheet, the authorization being provided by associating an address of the user with the portion of the sections in the data structure, wherein each of the sections is comprised of a plurality of independently accessible storage areas;

granting access rights for the user to access the portion of the sections of the data structure responsive to the received authorization ~~by: 1) permitting said access to the user responsive to the associated address of the user with the portion of the sections of the data structure and 2)~~

displaying the sections each of the users has access to as a respective common layer of the common spreadsheet

preventing users other than the user from having access to any of said sections which have not been associated with the address of said any of said users, wherein the sections of the data structure exist and include data prior to said access rights being granted, and wherein any of said sections to which any of the users has been prevented access are not displayed in each of the users' respective common layer; and

wherein one of said sections of one of said users is permitted to partially overlap another of said sections of another of said users without completely overlapping said another of said sections

enabling the user to access the portion of the sections of the data structure associated with the address of said user, after said access rights are granted.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

receiving, by the user, an e-mail alerting the user of the user's ability to access the portion of the sections.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

creating, by the user, a password, to limit access to the portion of the sections of the data structure to the user and said other users having said access rights to the portion of the sections of the data structure.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

reassigning, by the user, said access rights to at least a portion of the portion of sections to another of said other users.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of receiving includes at least one of receiving authorization to edit the portion of the sections, and receiving authorization to view the portion of the sections.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of accessing includes accessing the portion of the sections as data cells in a spreadsheet.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium including software that is adapted to control a computer to implement a processing method of enabling access to a data structure having a plurality of sections, said processing method comprising the steps of:

associating addresses of users with respective sections of the data structure on a common spreadsheet, wherein each of the respective sections is comprised of a plurality of independently accessible storage areas;

granting access rights for each of the users to access the sections corresponding to the associated addresses of the respective users ~~by: 1) permitting said access to each of the users responsive to the associated addresses of the users with the respective sections of the data structure and 2)~~

displaying the sections each of the users has access to as a respective common layer of the common spreadsheet

preventing any of said users from having access to any of said sections which have not been associated with the address of said any of said users, wherein the sections of the data structure exist and include data prior to said access rights being granted, and wherein any of said sections to which any of the users has been prevented access are not displayed in each of the users' respective common layer; and

wherein one of said sections of one of said users is permitted to partially overlap another of said sections of another of said users without completely overlapping said another of said sections

enabling each of the users to access the storage areas in the respective sections of the data structure associated with each users' respective address, after said access rights are granted.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling access to a data structure, said method comprising the steps of:

associating a first cell with a first section of the data structure on a common spreadsheet comprised of independently accessible storage areas;

associating a second cell with a second section of the data structure;

associating a first address of a first user with the first cell;

associating a second address of a second user with the second cell;

granting first access rights for the first user to access the first section of the data structure by: 1) ~~permitting said access to the first user responsive to the first address associated with the first section of the data structure and 2)~~

~~preventing the second user from accessing data in the first section;~~

granting second access rights for the second user to access the second section of the data structure by: 1) ~~permitting said access to the second user responsive to the second address associated with the second section of the data structure and 2)~~

displaying the sections each of the first user and the second user has access to as a respective common layer of the common spreadsheet

preventing the first user from accessing data in the second section, wherein the first and second sections of the data structure exist and include respective data prior to said first and second access rights being granted, and wherein any of said sections to which the first user has been prevented access are not displayed in the first user's respective common layer;

wherein the first section partially overlaps the second section without completely overlapping the second section

enabling the first user to view data contained in ~~only~~ the first section of the data structure associated with the first address, after said first access rights are granted; and

enabling the second user to view data contained in ~~only~~ the second section of the data structure associated with the second address, after said second access rights are granted.